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Paul D. Franke

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EXAMINER

SIDDIQI, MOHAMMAD A

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/869,513	Applicant(s) FRANKE, PAUL D.	
	Examiner MOHAMMAD A. SIDDIQI	Art Unit 2454	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 December 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-43 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-43 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>12/23/2008</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-43 are presented for examination.

Response to Arguments

2. In view of the Appeal Brief filed on 12/12/2008, have been fully considered and are persuasive, PROSECUTION IS HEREBY REOPENED.

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-43 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Double Patenting

4. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29

USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

5. Claims 1-43 provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over claims 1-158 of copending Application No. 09/809595. This is a provisional double patenting rejection since the conflicting claims have not yet been patented.

The subject matter claimed in the instant application is fully disclosed in the referenced copending application and would be covered by any patent granted on that copending application since the referenced copending application and the instant application are claiming common subject matter.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Salesky et al. (6,343,313) (hereinafter Salesky) in view of Conklin et al. (6,332,135) (Hereinafter Conklin).

8. As per claim 1, Salesky discloses method for conducting, augmenting or any combination thereof at least one convention on the internet, by facilitating the exchange between at least one meeting planner client and at least one attendee client, the method comprising the steps of:

a. receiving (17, 14, fig 2, col 29, lines 62-63), from the at least one meeting planner client with a web browser computer (17, fig 2, col 2, lines 9-28; col 30, lines 15-24), and electronically storing in convention venue databases at a central website server (14, fig 1; col 9, lines 64-67, col 30, lines 15-24) for providing central website server system processing (14, fig 2), at least one convention activity policy and convention content information for the at least one convention (col 2, lines 9-28; col 24, lines 66-67 – col 35, lines 1-10, and col 29, lines 34-37);

d. processing the selection at the central website server (14, fig 1) by virtual convention website program instructions (col 2, lines 9-28; col 8, lines 55-67) using the at least one convention activity policy to differentiate the navigational flow (col 2, lines 9-28; col 8, lines 55-57) and use of the convention content information among an array of convention activity (col 8, lines 55-67); and

e. releasing from the central website server to the at least one attendee client the selected convention content information (record presentation or lecture or video-mail, 17, 14, fig 2, col 7, lines 10-20; col 8, lines 34-45, server provides information that allows attendee client conferencing software to start and connect to the conference).

Although Salesky shows substantial features of the claimed invention including internet based (virtual) conferencing system, "The key that a

conferee gives at the time of attempting to connect to the conference server determines whether that conferee will be allowed access to the conference and what the conferee's initial privileges will be for participating in the conference and for modifying the setup of the conference. These privileges include but are not are not limited to the following: entering the conference, being a presenter, having a pointer, seeing the icons or other identifying information of other attendees, hiding or sharing one's own icon or identifying information, changing descriptive information such as the name, time, and purpose of the conference, changing keys, and changing others' privileges. The privileges can be modified during the conference by conferees or others who are so authorized. In general terms, the privileges include those that conferees

might enjoy in person at a conventional, physical meeting. In the description below, a conferencing or other communications session provided by the present invention will sometimes be called a "meeting." (col 2, lines 9-28). Salesky did not specifically teach b. receiving, from the at least one attendee client with a web browser computer at the central website server a selection for convention content information of the at least one convention; and c. processing the selection at the central website server by virtual convention website program instructions using the at least one convention activity policy to determine participation in convention activity and use if the convention content information in a virtual convention venue, a physical convention venue, or any combination thereof. However Conklin discloses b. receiving, from the at least one attendee client with a web browser computer at the central website server a selection for convention content information of the at least one convention (fig 4a-4b, col 11, line 60- col 12, line13; col 14, lines 2-20); and c. processing the selection at the central website server by virtual convention website program instructions using the at least one convention activity policy to determine participation in convention activity and use if the convention content information in a virtual convention venue, a physical convention venue, or any combination thereof (fig 4a-4b, col 11, line 60- col 12, line13; col 14, lines 2-20). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine the teachings of Salesky and Conklin. The motivation (as it suggested by Salesky, 14, fig 11, col 24, line 66 – col 25 line 10) would have been developing state machine using object oriented programming techniques.

9. As per claim 2, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, above. In addition, Salesky discloses at least one meeting planner client with a web browser computer is a plurality of meeting planner clients with a web browser computers (17, fig 2, col 30, lines 15-24 and col 8, lines 35-45).

10. As per claim 3, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, above. In addition, Salesky discloses at least one attendee client with a web browser computer is a plurality of attendee clients with a web browser computers (17, fig 2, col 8, lines 35-45).

11. As per claim 4, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, above. In addition, Salesky discloses the convention content information is cyber-based (17, fig 2, col 8, lines 35-45, WWW browser).

12. As per claim 5, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, above. In addition, Salesky discloses the convention content information is one of either cyber-based or venue-based (17, fig 2, lines 35-45, WWW browser).

13. As per claim 6, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, above. In addition, Salesky discloses wherein the at least one convention is a plurality of conventions (col 29, lines 34-41 and col 30, lines 15-30).

14. As per claim 7, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, above. In addition, Salesky discloses prior to step b); the steps of receiving at the central website server a search request from the attendee client for certain convention content information and releasing to the attendee client information satisfying the search request (17, 14, fig 2, col 8, lines 35-45, server provides information that allows attendee client conferencing software to start and connect to the conference).

15. As per claim 8, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, above. In addition, Salesky discloses the steps of receiving at the central website server from the attendee client information necessary to register for the convention (col 8, lines 34-36, being told).

16. As per claim 9, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, above. In addition, Salesky discloses the step of using attendee client information to alert attendee clients of future conventions that may be of interest to them (col 8, lines 34-36, being told).

17. As per claim 10, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, above. In addition, Salesky discloses the step of receiving, from at least one exhibitor client with a web browser computer, sponsor client with a web browser computer or any combination thereof (17, 14, fig 2), at the website server convention search, selection and

registration information for at least one convention (17, fig 2, col 8, lines 30-35, presenter and attendee client, conference listing).

18. As per claim 11, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, above. In addition, discloses at least one exhibitor client with a web browser computer, sponsor client with a web browser computer or any combination thereof is a plurality of exhibitor clients with a web browser computers, sponsor clients with a web browser computer or any combination thereof, (17, fig 2, col 8, lines 30-35, presenter and attendee client, conference listing).

19. As per claim 12, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, above. In addition, Salesky discloses step of storing cross-referencing fields from the convention content information in a relational database to allow an unlimited number of exhibitor clients, sponsor clients or any combination thereof (col 29, lines 34-41 and col 30, lines 15-30).

20. As per claim 13, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, above. In addition, Salesky discloses the step of receiving at the central website server from the meeting planner client session content information (14, 17, fig 2, col 8, lines 45-54).

21. As per claim 14, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, above. In addition, Salesky discloses the steps of receiving at the central website server a request

for certain client session content information from the attendee client for and releasing to the attendee client information satisfying the search request (14,17, fig 2, col 8, lines 45-54).

22. As per claim 15, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, above. In addition Salesky discloses the session content information is cyber-based (17, fig 2, col 8, line 39, WWW browser).

23. As per claim 16, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, above. In addition, Salesky discloses the session content information is one of either cyber-based or venue-based (col 8, line 39, WWW browser).

24. As per claim 17, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, above. In addition, Salesky discloses the step of providing attendee client participation in the session (fig 8B, col 8, lines 55-57).

25. As per claim 18, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, above. In addition, Salesky discloses the step of receiving at the central website server a search request from the attendee client for session information and releasing to the attendee client such information (14,17, fig 2, col 8, lines 30-35).

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26. As per claim 19, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, above. In addition, Salesky discloses the step of receiving at the central website server from the attendee client information necessary to register for the session (14, 17, fig 2, col 8, lines 30-37, finding or being told).

27. As per claim 20, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, above. In addition, Salesky discloses from at least one exhibitor client with a web browser computer, sponsor client with a web browser computer or any combination thereof, at the website server exhibit content information including exhibit booth design and content (66, 68, fig 3, col 11, lines 13-18, and lines 55-59, booths are created by graphics).

28. As per claim 21, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claims 1, 4, and 20 above.

29. As per claim 22, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claims 1, 8, and 20 above.

30. As per claim 23-27, claims are rejected for the same reasons as claims 1 and 20, above.

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31. As per claim 28, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, above. In addition, Salesky discloses the step of receiving at the central website server from the meeting planner paper presentation content information (col 7, lines –17, and lecture).

32. As per claim 29, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, above. In addition, Salesky discloses the paper presentation content information is cyber-based (col 8, line 39, WWW browser).

33. As per claim 30, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, above. In addition, Salesky discloses the paper presentation content information is one of either cyber-based or venue-based (col 8, line 39, WWW browser).

34. As per claim 31, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, above. In addition, Salesky discloses the step of releasing to the attendee client paper presentation content information (col 7, lines –17).

35. As per claim 32, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, above. In addition, Salesky discloses the step of receiving at the central website server from the meeting planner meeting proceedings content information (col 7, lines –17).

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36. As per claim 33, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, above. In addition, Salesky discloses the meeting proceedings content information is cyber-based (col 8, line 39, WWW browser).

37. As per claim 34, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, above. In addition, Salesky discloses the meeting proceedings content information is one of either cyber-based or venue-based (col 8, line 39, WWW browser).

38. As per claim 35, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, above. In addition, Salesky discloses the step of releasing to the attendee client meeting proceedings content information (col 8, lines 30-35, presenter and attendee client, conference listing).

39. As per claim 36, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, above. In addition, Salesky discloses the step of receiving at the central website server from the meeting planner cyber broadcast content information (col 7, lines 15-20).

40. As per claim 37, Salesky discloses the step of releasing to the attendee client cyber broadcast content information (col 7, lines 10-20).

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41. As per claim 38, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, above. In addition, Salesky discloses the convention content information and visitor bureau content information (14, 17, fig 2, col 8, lines 30-40).

42. As per claim 39, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claims 1 and 38, above. In addition, Salesky discloses the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, above.

43. As per claim 40, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, above.

44. As per claim 41, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 10, above.

45. As per claim 42, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 20, above.

46. As per claim 43, the claim is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1, above. In addition, Salesky discloses the step of receiving, wherein the convention activity is convention and visitor bureau activity (seeing the icons or other identifying information of other attendees, col 2, lines 1-28).

Conclusion

47. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MOHAMMAD A. SIDDIQI whose telephone number is (571)272-3976. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday -Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nathan J. Flynn can be reached on (571) 272-1915. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

MS

***/Nathan J. Flynn/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2454***